

**DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**JOHN M. M. CALDWELL, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING**

**August 18, 1997**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The August 18, 1997, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., Board President.

James Albert Riley, the DeSoto County Sheriff was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear any and all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

Jessie Medlin-----District 1  
Eugene C. Thach-----District 2  
James D. Pearson-----District 3  
John Caldwell-----District 4  
Tommy Lewis-----District 5  
W. E. ASluggo@ Davis-----Chancery Clerk  
James Albert Riley-----Sheriff  
Clovis Reed-----County Administrator  
William H. Austin, Jr.-----Board Attorney

**B. INVOCATION**

The invocation was presented by County Administrator Clovis Reed.

**C. BUDGET HEARING**

The Board of Supervisors discussed several items relating to the FY97-98 budget. Those requesting the Board of Supervisors to reconsider their suggested budget were:

**Jimmy Bearden, Director of Operations and Maintenance**

The County Administrator explained the budget as follows:

<u>FY96-97 BUDGET</u>	<u>REQUESTED BUDGET</u>	<u>SUGGESTED BUDGET</u>
\$598,894.00	\$559,686.00	\$536,808.00

Mr. Reed said this represents a 1% decrease and the purchase of the vehicle is a major part of the budget. Jimmy Bearden, the Director of Operations and Maintenance said T. R. Reynolds has said Budget Item 151-671 (gasoline) will not be sufficient for the budget year and cited the cost of transporting returned tags as a major gas expense. After discussion the Board decided to lower Item 151-542 by \$500.00 and increase Item 151-671 by \$500.00.

**Item C., Continued,**

Jimmy Bearden said T. R. Reynolds requested a better heavy duty vehicle to haul the heavy trailers. This item was discussed.

The Director of Operations and Maintenance suggested setting up a new account for Household Hazardous Waste. Mr. Bearden said the County=s part of the budget will be \$6,000.00, and he requested an account be set up for this amount. Clovis Reed asked Jimmy Bearden to put the cost estimate figures together.

Family & Childrens Services

The County Administrator explained the budget as follows:

FY97-98 BUDGET	REQUESTED BUDGET	SUGGESTED BUDGET
\$47,939.00	\$48,609.00	\$45,709.00

The County Administrator, Clovis Reed, said that the Emergency Shelter was moved to another area in the budget. Office Equipment was cut from the budget.

Verrie Richmond said there is a new position approved for October and they need a cellular phone for the social workers to use at night. They only need one for the department to rotate with the one pager they already have.

Dale Thompson said the State refunds 80% of their budget. For example, of their current \$47,000.00 budget, the State has reimbursed \$32,000.00. They reimburse by expense. Clovis Reed said they verified they are requesting their original request of \$5,600.00 The Board discussed moving money from training. Ms. Richmond asked the training budget be left, as after a long search, they have found someone to lead their training. The Board of Supervisors agreed that, after the State refund, this budget amount for these issues is not large enough to be a significant issue.

Joey Treadway, Tax Collector

Clovis Reed notified the Board of Supervisors the Tax Collectors budget is as follows:

FY96-97 BUDGET	REQUESTED BUDGET	SUGGESTED BUDGET
\$603,723.00	\$688,935.00	\$685,660.00

Joey Treadway, the Tax Collector, asked why the request for the \$3,500.00 allowed by the statute for satellite offices was removed from his budget. Supervisor Eugene Thach explained that mileage is approved over \$3,500.00.

Mr. Treadway notified the Board of Supervisors that tag mailing has gone from \$25,000.00 to \$48,808.00 because this is the year we mail the tags rather than just the stickers. However, Mr. Treadway said the taxpayers return the money through their tag purchase.

County Administrator Clovis Reed explained that postage and the addition of a new position were the drivers of the 14% budget increase.

**Item C., Continued,**

NOTIFICATION OF NEED TO INCREASE POSTAGE FEES

The Tax Collector, Joey Treadway, notified the Board of Supervisors of the need to increase postage fees for mailing car tags to recoup the cost of mailing the complete car tags, rather than the stickers.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to increase postage fees for mailed car tags in DeSoto County from \$.50 to \$1.50 at the recommendation of the Tax Collector. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

Bobby Storey, EMS Director

The County Administrator explained the EMS Budget is as follows:

FY96-97 BUDGET	REQUESTED BUDGET	SUGGESTED BUDGET
\$845,035.00	\$1,118,508.00	\$926,955.00

Bobby Storey, EMS Director, explained the department is trying to go to a paramedic rating and to do so calls for mandatory salary increases. Also, there is a need to add two paramedics to Eudora EMS. Mr. Storey explained that the employees already certified as paramedics are riding at intermediate pay until the County is certified at the higher rating. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said his constituents have said they want paramedics in the County ambulances.

Bobby Storey gave the credit of the fast step up to paramedics to the County employees--many of whom paid the costs of the training out of their pocket.

In addition, Bobby Storey asked for Fire dispatchers to have their salaries increased to the level of the Sheriff=s Department employees doing the same job.

COUNTY AMBULANCE NEEDS

Bobby Storey explained the overall needs and requests of the County for ambulances. Mr. Storey said he is trying to establish ambulance needs in the County and prioritize those needs. Mr. Storey said the City of Southaven has asked for an additional ambulance for their annexed area. Supervisor Eugene Thach said the annexation has not taken place yet.

Mr. Storey suggested amending the interlocal agreement to say the cities can get a new ambulance every five years and let them keep up their vehicle servicing better than they have in the past.

Comptroller Dale Thompson brought up the uncollectibles account in the County Ambulance Fund and said not keeping up that account will hurt the County in the future.

County Administrator Clovis Reed said the County is working under an interlocal agreement with cities has not been fully executed. This item was discussed.

Bobby Storey asked for clarification that the Board of Supervisors did not agree with a new ambulance for Southaven. The Board said they would not support that at this time.  
**See Exhibit C.**

**Item C., Continued,**

Clara Riley, Animal Control Officer

The County Administrator said overtime has been budgeted and a 5% increase was also in the budget. The necessary overtime for Ms. Riley was discussed.

Frank Treadway, Fire Coordinator

The County Administrator explained the County Fire Department budget as follows:

FY96-97 BUDGET	REQUESTED BUDGET	SUGGESTED BUDGET
\$521,054.00	\$501,697.00	\$508,055.00

Frank Treadway asked to go to full time as the job requires many more hours than the part time position for which he was hired.

Mr. Treadway said he put in for a 5% salary increase for Fire Dispatchers. He said there was a far less number suggested for his budget. The County Administrator said they should meet to discuss the budget recommendation, as he is under the impression the 5% request is included in the suggested budget.

Mr. Treadway said the Fire Department bid out a dispatch console for the Communications Center and asked when the bid would be acted on. The communications issue was discussed. The Comptroller explained the fire budget works off the tax levy and the cost of the dispatch center would be decreased from the amount going to the volunteer fire departments if the dispatch center was purchased. The County Administrator gave an overview of the whole communications issue relating to centralized communications. The location of the tower was discussed.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said he is ready to move toward a centralized communication. The feasibility of operating two centralized dispatch areas was discussed. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the Sheriff should be present to discuss this issue.

The County Administrator suggested sending a resolution supporting centralized communications so 911 can have an idea of how big to build their building.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to go out for bids for equipment necessary for a centralized communication 800 system and high band back up based on the recommendation of the Fire and EMS Coordinators. The **motion did not pass** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----No  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes  
Supervisor James Pearson-----Abstain  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----No

The Supervisors explained the Ano@ votes were because those Supervisors were not ready to make a decision about communications and the bid process could be in vain. Clovis Reed explained the County is in the window of opportunity as 911 is waiting for the County=s decision to determine the needs for the Centralized Communication System.

**Item C., Continued,**

After more discussion, Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to move toward centralized communications and go

out for bids for equipment necessary for a centralized communication 800 system and high band back up based on the recommendation of the Fire and EMS Coordinators. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----No  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes  
Supervisor James Pearson-----Yes  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

**Sheriff=s Department**

Comptroller Dale Thompson said the Aviation Unit of the Sheriff=s Office estimates they will be able to pay Aviation bills in process before budget time, rather than carrying the budget over as discussed earlier.

County Administrator Clovis Reed explained he has factored the employee turnover rate into the Sheriff=s Office budget and included a 5% salary increase for Sheriff=s Office employees.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked about prisoner medical cost estimates. Mr. Reed said he is recommending \$270,000.00 for medical costs and \$65,000.00 for drug costs for a total of \$335,000.00 for prisoner medical costs.

The County Administrator explained it was necessary to increase the Sheriff=s Office budget by \$7,500.00 for NCIC equipment.

**D. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Dale Thompson - Budget Amendments**

The budget amendments recommended by the Comptroller were discussed by the Board of Supervisors. The Board decided to hold over all the budget amendment requests including the request from Data Processing for the additional laser printer, and the request from Justice Court for furniture and fixtures. All except the following budget amendments were held over until Wednesday.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to transfer \$100,000.00 of Grand Gulf Funds to Solid Waste as follows:

From	001-000-296	\$100,000.00	
To	001-000-001		\$100,000.00
From	112-000-001	\$100,000.00	
To	112-000-296		\$100,000.00

The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **See Exhibit D.1.**

And,

**Item D., Continued,**

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve the budget transfer as recommended by the Comptroller:

From	General County	001-900-950	\$7,000.00	
To	Chancery Court	106-000-384		\$7,000.00
	Administrators			

The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **See Exhibit D.1.**

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Petition For Reduction of Assessment Taxes Received - H. C. Industries**

At the recommendation of Bill Bryant of the Tax Assessors office Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor James Pearson seconded the motion to leave the property assessment for H. C. Industries as it was set by the Tax Assessors office. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----No  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes  
Supervisor James Pearson-----Yes  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

**See Exhibit E.1** which was filled out by H. C. Industries of MS and sent by certified mail and recieved in the Chancery Clerk=s Office on August 14, 1997.

**2. Horn Lake Creek Drainage Tax Levy**

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve that 2.6% be levied for the fiscal year 1998 for the purpose of maintaining, cleaning out and keeping in repair the ditches of the Horn Lake Creek Watershed Drainage District and meeting the legal obligations of the District of which levy is hereby assessed against the assessed benefits as shown by the assessment roll of the District dated 1991, and approved by the Chancery Clerk of DeSoto County, Mississippi. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **See Exhibit E.2.**

**F. OTHER ISSUES**

**1. Supervisor John Caldwell**

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to pay the travel expenses for the Board President to the MAS Convention in the amount of \$357.00. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes  
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

**See Exhibit F.1.**

**Item F., Continued,**

**2. Animal Control Officer - Bridgetown**

It was discussed that the current Animal Control Officer at Bridgetown is not handling calls effectively, and someone else has requested the job. This item was

held over.

**3. Lewisburg Fire Truck**

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to accept the Lewisburg fire truck at the recommendation of Frank Treadway, the Fire Coordinator. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Absent  
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

**4. Communications**

The Board of Supervisors asked the County Administrator, Clovis Reed to invite the Road Manager, Kenny Gunn to the next meeting to discuss communications.

**5. Planning Commission - Memphis, MS**

The Planning Commission presented further discussion of the issue of the City Planning development of the Village of Memphis, MS as evidenced by the portion of the minutes presented by the Planning Commission.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to recess until Wednesday, August 20, 1997, at 9:00. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

THIS the 18th day of August, 1997, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

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JOHN M. M. CALDWELL, President  
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors